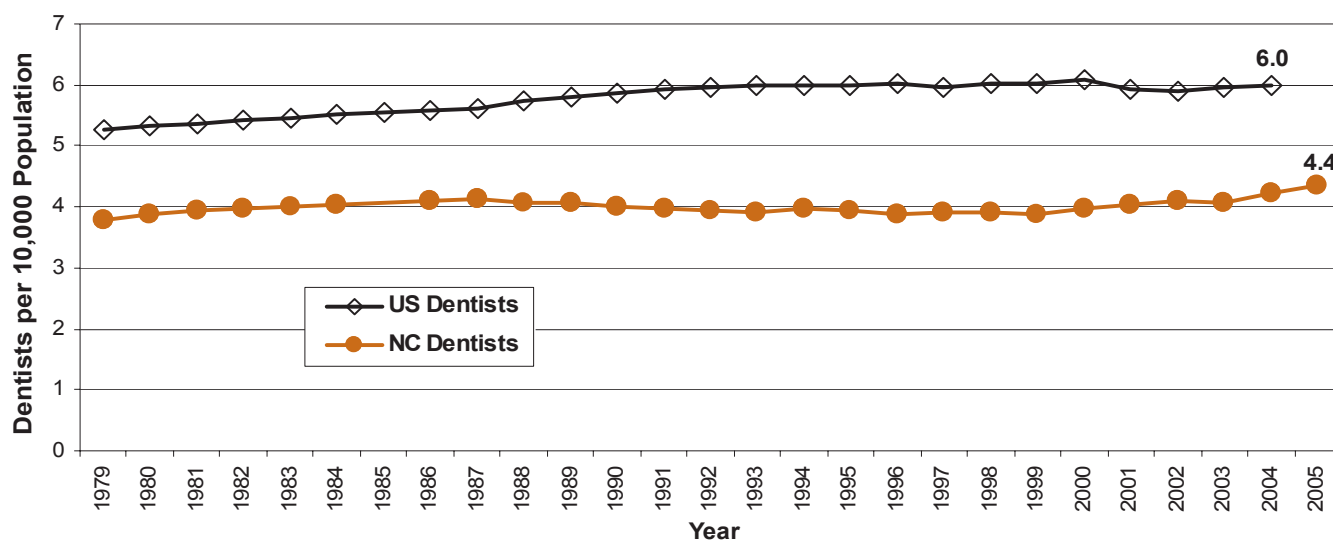


Figure 2: Dentists per 10,000 Population, US and NC, 1979 to 2005*



*Note: US population data for 2001-2002 are slightly different than previous years and may partially account for the slight drop in dentists per 10,000 population at the national level.

Every year the North Carolina Health Professions Data System (HPDS) receives a file from the North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners containing practice information on dentists licensed to practice in the state in that year. Comparison of these annual licensure files from year-to-year is instructive because it reveals, on an annual basis, the flow of dentists into and out of active practice. **Figure 3** reveals a number of important facts about dental supply in the state. There is a dynamic process of gain and loss every year whereby about 11% of the workforce either enters or exits active practice. Of the dentists added to the workforce between 2004-2005, 194 dentists were newly licensed in North Carolina, and 85 were previously licensed in North Carolina and moved from inactive to active practice or from out-of-state to instate status. The net gain of dentists in 2004 and 2005 was significantly greater than in 2003 and is the result of both a higher number of new dentists entering practice and fewer dentists exiting practice.

Figure 3: Components of Change, 2002-2005

